Cleaning allowance to Bank Officers

2248. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cleaning allowance is provided to all the bank officers of the State Bank of India who have leased accommodation;

(b) the reasons for not providing cleaning allowance to other officers who have their own accommodation; and

(c) whether Government will consider providing cleaning allowance to all officers of the SBI irrespective of the fact whether they have leased accommodation or their own accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it is supplying reimbursing the cost of essential cleaning materials to such officers who are provided with residential accommodation by the bank (including leased accommodation) for upkeep and maintenance of the premises and furniture and fixtures provided in such premises. This facility is also provided to the officers who stay in their own houses constructed with bank's finance, who have been supplied with the bank's furniture.

SBI has further reported that it is providing this facility for the upkeep of the bank's premises and furniture, and as such officers staying in their own houses are not eligible for this facility.

Amount sanctioned to states for Tourism Development programme

2249. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1538 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 1996, and state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by Government to the States of North-East for tourism development programme during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount released so far, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) The detailed amount sanctioned and released for the development of tourism in the North-Eastern States is given in the statement.

Statement

Central Financial Assistance provided to North-hastern state Governments during first four years of Vlllth Plan

	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
Name of the States	Amount Sanctione	Amount Release	Amount Sanction	Amount Release	Amount Sanction	Amount Release	Amount Sanction	Amoun Release
Assam	78.66	43.94	78.11	28.83	52.99	27.00	70.24	23.30
Arunachal	48.27	28.00	45.40	23.50	—	—	52.26	25.50
Manipur	66.24	34.38	45.50	27.35	4.00	2.00	75.81	24.20
Meghalaya	9.77	5.00	1.85	1.85	—	—	4.08	2.04
Mizoram	47.70	33.95	88.18	62.83	1ll 80	41.29	100.86	36.27
Nagaland	7.17	36.50	16.66	10.97	36.43	16.85	51.60	18.94
Tripura	80.28	36.70	15.07	9.69	46.61	22.40	35.43	10.00

Non-Adhering of safety norms by private Airlines

2250. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some private airlines are not adhering to safety norms;

(b) if so, the names of such airlines; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1996 (till date) there have been only three violations of air safety norms by private airlines involving MESCO Airlines, East West Airlines and Modiluft.

(c) Licences of the pilots/co-pilots involved

have been suspended. M/s Modiluft have been issued a warning. Other measures such as monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements, safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/ meetings, inspection of aerodromes, etc. are e continuously taken to enhance air safety.

Rupee-Rouble Agreement between Russia and India

2251. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a pact between Russia and India in January, 1993 regarding Rupee-Rouble agreement Govemment have to bear a loss of crores of rupees,

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such losses;

(c) whether there was any plan in the above mentioned agreement which escaped notice at the time of agreement; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to avoid any further loss due to such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Profit Earned from foreign Tourists in Kutch-Saurashtra Region

2252. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit earned by Government agencies during the last three years and contribution of the Government of India and Gujarat on arrivals of foreign tourists in Kutch-Saurashtra region;

(b) whether performance of tourist activities is satisfactory; and

(c) the budgetary allocation in the current financial year's budget to the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA): (a) The India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) which is the only undertaking under the Department of Tourism earned profits during the last three years as per the details given below:—

Year	Profit after tax (Rs. crores)
1993-94	12.21
1994-95	28.37
1995-96	47.75

It is not possible to estimate the profit earned from foreign tourists in Kutch-Saurashtra region separately. The Department of Tourism provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 51.21 lakhs to the Government of Gujarat during the period of last three years for the improvement of infrastructural facilities in the State to attract foreign tourists.

(b) and (c) The development of tourist facilities and activities is a continuous process and is subject to availability of resources. In consultation with the State Government of Gujarat, 5 projects have been identified for providing central financial assistance of Rs. 53.08 lakhs during 1996-97.

Losses suffered by airports

2253. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many airports in the country are running in losses at present;

(b) the losses suffered by each during the last 3 years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make them economical?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) 81 airports during the year 1995-96 have reported losses.

(b) Details of airports which have incurred losses during the last 3 years is annexed.

(c) to low traffic potential the scope of augmenting revenue from traffic at these airports is limited. AAI is taking steps to increase non-traffic revenue at these airports through increased commercial activities and optimum utilisation of land. However, unless there is increase in airline traffic; these airports will continue to be economically, non-viable for quite some time.